

No. 8 University Courts

The University Courts Historic District was nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in June of 1992. More information on University Courts, and a copy of the National Register nomination, may be found in the Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library.

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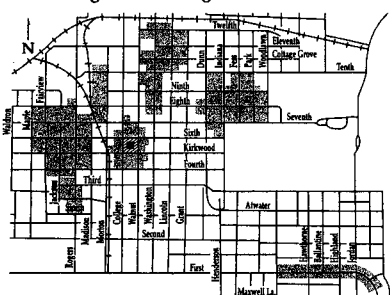
In University Courts, a church and Greek houses were interspersed harmoniously with single family residences, duplexes and small apartment buildings. All were built at a comfortable residential scale. The wealth of architectural styles, rich variety of building materials, brick and limestone retaining walls, and Bloomington's only remaining brick streets create a charming and unique environment, a synthesis of "town and gown."

and has helped preserve the district's historic character. renovation has respected the interior and exterior of these houses verified for use as offices by Indiana University. Much of the remaining in the 1960s, a number of residences were also converted to single-family homes and were later used for Greek houses. During the years, some of these dwellings were originally designed as Greek Letter Societies were housed in University Courts over Greek houses to be built at Indiana University. As many as the first included: Indiana University Dean of Commerce and Finance; William Rawles, Dean of the School of Commerce and Finance; Indiana University Athletic Director Z.C. Cleveland; Joseph and Agnes Nurre, of the Nure Mirror Plate Company; Chester Buskirk, widow of prominent Bloomington lawyer and stone mason Philip Kearny "P.K." Buskirk; and Kenneth Williams, professor of mathematics and father of the R.O.T.C. at Indiana University, and celebrated author of a five volume history of the Civil War, *Linch Pin's General*.

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University Courts

Walking Tours Through Historic Districts



1. West Side
2. Courthouse Square
3. North Washington Street
4. Prospect Hill
5. Vinegar Hill Limestone
6. Cottage Grove
7. North Indiana Avenue
8. University Courts

Additional copies of the walking tour brochures are available at the Monroe County Historical Museum, the Department of Redevelopment, City of Bloomington or from Bloomington Restorations, Inc.

In Appreciation:

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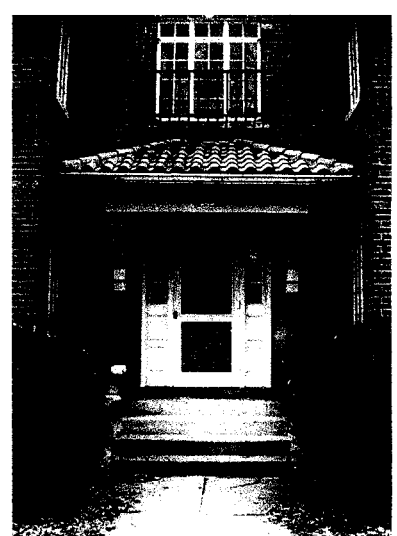
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Bloomington Restorations Inc.

A FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MONROE COUNTY
P.O. BOX 1522, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, 47402

A Walk Through the University Courts Historic District

Historic Tour Guide No. 8



Bloomington, Indiana

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1. Sigma Chi House
601 East Seventh
1906/1953

This two-and-one-half-story, limestone veneer, Georgian Revival house is distinguished by its large central portico, delicate entrance with elliptical fanlight transom, gambrel roof and pedimented attic dormers. Shown here in an early 1930s photograph, it was originally constructed in 1906.



2. University Lutheran Church
607 East Seventh
1932

Alfred Grindle, an English born architect, designed the "University Evangelical Lutheran Church," dedicated in 1932. This limestone veneer church has Gothic Revival parapet gable ends, buttresses and a crenelated tower and Tudor Revival half-timbering.



3. 703 East Seventh
ca. 1915

Louis Hughes, owner of the Hughes Brothers Lumber Co., built this impressive home for his family between 1911 and 1916. A three-story atrium tower with a fountain once graced the inside of this elegant structure, which features Craftsman style details—exposed roof rafters, locally quarried rock-faced limestone veneer and a colonnaded sunroom. Hughes moved from the house, pictured here in the 1923 Indiana University yearbook the *Arbutus*, to make way for the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority in 1922.



4. 705 East Seventh
ca. 1915

Attorney Thomas Sare, one of the original owners and developers of the neighborhood, lived in this Spanish Colonial Revival style house with his wife, Nettie, from 1916 until the mid-1920s. The Spanish Colonial style curvilinear gable with limestone vigas is combined with Craftsman style exposed roof rafters, two-toned brown tapestry brick and a basic bungalow form. This charming and eclectic bungalow became the home of Henry Lester Smith, dean of the Indiana University School of Education, and his wife, Johnne, in 1925.



5. 715 East Seventh
ca. 1925

This Tudor Revival and Craftsman style house is the second house Louis Hughes built for himself in the district. The house is distinguished by the steep pitch and multiple gables of the Tudor Revival style, a limestone veneer facade, Craftsman style eave brackets and multi-paned sash, and a fanlight transom over the front door.



6. 719 East Seventh
ca. 1925

Thomas and Nettie Sare moved to this Spanish Colonial Revival style house in 1925. The brown brick veneer is accented with limestone quoins, sills and lintels, some over round-arched windows. A colonnaded porch with exposed roof rafters and a limestone medallion in its east gable add interest to the house. This photograph was taken in the 1930s.



7. 825 East Eighth
ca. 1922

Indiana University football coach Ewald "Jumbo" Stiehm was the first occupant of this brick Prairie style house. The wide overhanging eaves, grouped narrow windows, and horizontal orientation are characteristic of this style introduced by Midwest architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



8. Kappa Alpha Theta House
441 North Woodlawn
ca. 1934

This limestone veneer, Tudor Revival style house has characteristic steeply pitched roof, multiple gables, crenelated roof detail and multi-paned steel casement windows.



9. 812 East Eighth
ca. 1922

Elizabeth Sage, Indiana University assistant professor of home economics and founder of the Elizabeth Sage Costume Collection, moved to this small wood frame cottage between 1922 and 1927. The costume collection she established contains articles of clothing from 1830 to the present.



10. 402 North Park
ca. 1920

Fred and Anna Owens lived in this red brick Colonial Revival house in 1920. One year later, they were persuaded to sell it to the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. In 1931 the house, shown here in an early 1930s photograph, became the home of Circuit Court Judge James B. Wilson and his wife, Maude.



11. 409 North Park
ca. 1928

Harry and Nova Vonderschmitt, owners of the Indiana Theater, built this brick Tudor Revival cottage between 1927 and 1929. The two soon constructed and moved into a larger and grander version of this house in the newly fashionable Elm Heights neighborhood, a "palace" inspired by the movie sets in the films their theaters showed.



12. Feltus Duplexes
715-717 East Eighth
405-407 North Park
ca. 1915 and ca. 1918

These matching brick and wood frame Craftsman style duplexes were built by Paul Feltus, who lived at 405 with his wife, Lucille. Wide overhanging eaves, exposed roof rafters and visible porch roof trusses are all characteristic of the Craftsman style. Feltus published the weekly *Bloomington Star*, as well as newsletters and trade journals. These duplexes were home to many Bloomington professionals and Indiana University professors.



13. Bowman Duplex
718-712 East Eighth
1923

Herman Bowman, owner of the Bowman Schwab limestone mill on South Walnut Street, built this spacious duplex and moved in with his wife, Elizabeth, in 1923. The solid construction displays such Craftsman style details as the use of local limestone and native hardwood framing, a cement tile roof and multi-paned upper sash.



14. 712 East Eighth
ca. 1920

Paul McNutt, dean of the Law School and later governor of Indiana (1933-1940), moved to this brick bungalow with his wife, Kathleen, between 1922 and 1925. In 1940 he was a contender first for president of the United States, then vice president, but instead accepted the post of high commissioner for the Philippines from President Truman and later became ambassador to the islands.



15. Ward Johnson House
707 East Eighth
1922

Bloomington architect John Nichols designed this house for Ward Johnson, co-owner with brother Ellis Johnson of Johnson's Creamery. The brick veneer Colonial Revival house is shown here in a 1930s photograph.



16. 422 North Indiana
ca. 1915

Wyatt Wicks, president of The Wicks Co. department store on the courthouse square, and his wife, Ida, lived here in 1916. By 1920 and throughout the 1930s, Thomas Karsell, of the Bloomington Milling Co., and his wife, Harriet, lived in this Dutch Colonial style limestone house with a gambrel, clay tile roof and Craftsman style details.



17. 502 North Indiana
ca. 1915

Ed and Ella Williams built this large, wood frame American four-square house and were living here by 1916. Classical porch columns were added in the 1980s. Mr. Williams was the proprietor of the Ed Williams Jewelry & Music Store at 115 North College.



18. Harlos Court Apartments
509-511 North Fess
1927

Cecil and Inez Harlos designed and decorated this two-building complex in 1927. The contoured parapets, multi-paned casement windows and tiled roof sections characterize the Spanish Colonial style of these large multi-family brick dwellings.



19. 514 North Fess
1930

This handsome brick dwelling was the home of many Indiana University educators over the years. Dr. Beatrice Geiger and Dr. Una Robinson, both professors in the Indiana University Home Economics Department, were residents of the house from the 1940s until the 1980s. Multi-paned sash and diamond-paned transoms provide architectural interest.



20. 504 North Fess
506-508 North Fess
510-512 North Fess
1929 and 1931

William Book, an Indiana University psychology professor, and his wife, Clara, lived first at 506 in 1929 then at 504 from 1931 until the 1940s. This group of red brick, Tudor Revival and Craftsman style buildings are clustered nicely around a center courtyard. This romantic enclave is further unified by a distinctive limestone and brick retaining wall with arched gateways. The south archway was fondly remembered by an alumnus as a "rendezvous for all the lovers of Indiana University for 50 years ... the place you went to spoon."



21. 422 North Fess
ca. 1928

Howard and Catherine Graves built this large limestone duplex between 1927 and 1929. Mr. Graves was the proprietor of a clothing store at 512 East Kirkwood. Preston Gilliat, proprietor of the Graham Hotel on the courthouse square, and his wife, Sara, lived here from the 1940s until the 1980s. This fine example of Georgian Revival architecture with its end gable returns and symmetrical composition holds a prominent corner location above the street with a limestone retaining wall.



22. Stith Thompson House
406 North Fess
ca. 1915

This wood frame Craftsman style house was home to Indiana University Professor of English and Folklore Stith Thompson and his wife, Louise, in the 1930s. The battered porch posts, knee braces and three-over-one window sash are typical of this style.



23. Ellis Johnson House
501 North Park
1922

Ellis Johnson, co-owner with brother Ward Johnson of Johnson's Creamery, built this large Craftsman style bungalow with his wife, Lula. The brick and wood frame bungalow, pictured here in a 1930s photograph, is sited high above the street and surrounded by a limestone retaining wall. A low pitched roof with exposed rafters, knee braces, multi-paned upper sash and a wide front porch are all characteristic Craftsman features.



24. Hoadley House
513 North Park
1926

This stately Tudor Revival residence was built by William Hoadley, lawyer, stone company owner, state senator and president of Valhalla Memorial Park. His wife was Lucille Hughes, daughter of University Courts' developer Louis Hughes. Hoadley built this manor-like home with locally quarried limestone using funds acquired from the 1925 sale of his stone mill to the Indiana Limestone Co. The style was inspired through Hoadley's exposure to hundreds of house plans in his estimating work at the mill.

